



## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Health Policy Committee

From: Michigan Retailers Association

Date: September 5, 2018

Subject: Oppose HB 5857

---

On behalf of our over 5,000 members and their 15,000 storefronts and websites across the state, Michigan Retailers Association respectfully asks committee members to oppose the mandate created by HB 5857.

While we appreciate and commend the bill sponsor's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic, HB 5857 will not accomplish the goal of preventing minors from accessing and trying opioids.

### **Creates a target that isn't tamper or smash proof**

Lockable prescription bottles are actually larger and easier to spot than normal prescription bottles, making them a quick and easy target for anyone looking to raid a family member's medicine cabinet. In addition, experts have found that they are not tamper proof nor are they smash proof. While it wouldn't be as discreet, a locked vial can be accessed with a simple swing of a hammer.

### **Creates logistical problems for patients and pharmacies**

There are legitimate uses for opioids and some of those conditions or individuals who experience frequent pain may struggle to open the bottles due to a mental or physical limitation. It also requires the patient to remember a code to unlock the vial. If a patient forgets the code, the pharmacy will have to provide the code or step in to assist, taking the pharmacist or pharmacy tech away from assisting other customers with perhaps more urgent needs.

### **Creates an expensive mandate when secure options are readily available**

This also creates a mandate that benefits certain manufacturers at the expense of pharmacies and patients. There is no opt out for the more expensive lockable vials. Consumers worried about individuals sampling or stealing their medications can already choose to purchase lockable vials online or the more secure locked boxes that many retailers carry to store their medications in if they choose.

### **Other solutions worth pursuing**

MRA has supported numerous legislative efforts to address the opioid epidemic and appreciates the legislature's serious interest in preventing opioid abuse. We do believe there are additional steps the legislature can take including, but not limited to, securing opioid prescriptions by requiring electronic transmission of all prescriptions to reduce fraud and errors.

For the reasons listed above, we respectfully oppose HB 5857 and urge the committee to pursue other methods of preventing opioid abuse.